

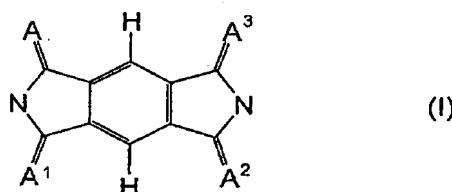
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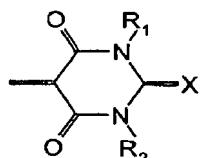
Attorney's Docket: 2003DE108
Serial No.: 10/550,995
Group: 1626

Amendments to the Claims

1) (Currently Amended) A compound of the general formula (I)



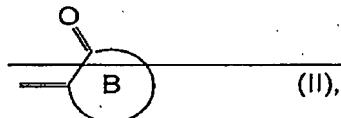
wherein A is a divalent radical of the formulae (a)



wherein R₁ and R₂ independently represent hydrogen, C₁-C₂₅-alkyl, C₅-C₁₂-cycloalkyl, C₆-C₂₄-aryl, C₁-C₂₅-alkyl-(C₆-C₁₀-aryl), a 5- to 6-membered heteroaromatic radical having 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O and S, -(CH₂)_n-COR₃ or -(CH₂)_m-OR₄, and wherein a C-C unit in R₁ and R₂ is, optionally, replaced by an ether unit C-O-C X is =O, =S or =NR₅, where R₅ is R₁ or R₂

of a cyclic compound of the general formula (II)

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wherein B is an alicyclic or heterocyclic group, and A¹, A² and A³ are the same or different and are A or =NR, wherein R is hydrogen, unsubstituted phenyl, phenyl substituted by 1, 2, 3 or 4 radicals selected from the group consisting of halogen, R⁹, OR⁹, SR⁹, NH₂, NHR⁹, NR⁹₂, NO₂, COOH, COOR⁹, CONH₂, CONHR⁹, CONR⁹₂, CN, SO₃H, SO₃(OR⁹), and SO₂R⁹, phenyl substituted by a 5 to 7 membered heteroaromatic radical having 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O and S; a 5 to 7 membered heteroaromatic radical having 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O and S; NH₂, NHR⁹, NR⁹₂, NHCONH₂ or NHCONHR⁹, where R⁹ is C₁-C₁₈-alkyl or C₆-C₂₄-aryl.

2) through 6) (Cancelled)

7) (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 6-1, wherein R₁ and R₂ are hydrogen, C₁-C₁₈-alkyl, C₅-C₆-cycloalkyl, C₆-C₁₀-aryl, benzyl, pyridyl, pyrryl, thienyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrimidyl, hydroxycarbonyl-C₀-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₁₈-alkoxycarbonyl-C₀-C₆-alkyl, aminocarbonyl-C₀-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₁₈-alkylaminocarbonyl-C₀-C₆-alkyl, C₆-C₁₀-arylaminocarbonyl-C₀-C₆-alkyl, di(C₁-C₁₈-alkyl)aminocarbonyl-C₀-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₁₈-alkyl-C₆-C₁₀-arylaminocarbonyl-C₀-C₆-alkyl or di(C₆-C₁₀-aryl)aminocarbonyl-C₀-C₆-alkyl.

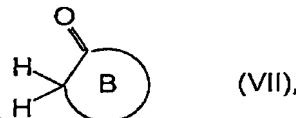
8) and 9) (Cancelled)

10) (Withdrawn) A process for preparing a compound according to claim 1, comprising the steps of reacting 1,2,4,5-tetracyanobenzene with at least 2 equivalents of at least one of ammonia or alkoxides MOR₇,

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wherein M is sodium or potassium, R₇ is C₁-C₁₈-alkyl or -(CH₂)_m-OH and m is an integer from 1 to 6, and a C-C unit is, optionally, replaced by an ether unit C-O-C, in a solvent or solvent mixture under basic to neutral conditions at a temperature in the range from -20 to 120°C to form tetra-, tri-, di- or monoimino-substituted benzodipyrroles, and

reacting the tetra-, tri-, di- or monoimino-substituted benzodipyrroles with at least 1 equivalent of a cyclic compound of the formula (VII) in a solvent or solvent mixture



under neutral to acidic conditions

and optionally not more than 3 equivalents of H₂NR.

11) (Withdrawn) A method of using a compound according to claim 1 comprising the step of dyeing or pigmenting an organic or inorganic, high or low molecular weight material with the compound.

12) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 11 wherein the material is selected from the group consisting of electrophotographic toners, electrophotographic developers, color filters, electronic inks and optical layers for optical data storage.

13) (Currently Amended) A composition comprising ~~an organic or inorganic, high or low molecular weight material~~ a plastic, paint, printing ink, electrophotographic toner, electrophotographic developer, color filter, electronic ink or an optical layer for optical data storage and at least one of the compound as claimed in claim 1, in an amount from 0.005% to 70% by weight, based on the material.

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14) (Currently Amended) A composition comprising ~~an organic or inorganic, high or low molecular weight material~~ a plastic, paint, printing ink, electrophotographic toner, electrophotographic developer, color filter, electronic ink or an optical layer for optical data storage and at least one of the compound as claimed in claim 1.

15) (Cancelled)